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**Montana Department of Commerce Awards \$216,000 in
Funding to Lake County for Ashley Martin, LLC**

(HELENA) – The Montana Department of Commerce has awarded \$216,000 in funding from the Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development (CDBG-ED) Program to Lake County to provide Ashley Martin, LLC, with a loan for working capital and a training grant. Ashley Martin, LLC, a manufacturer of natural health supplements, will create at least 11 new jobs.

“Ashley Martin currently has 20 employees in the Arlee area,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “Additional jobs from this expansion will help strengthen Arlee’s economy and create significant employment opportunities for several families. I am committed to improving local economies in every corner of this state.”

“Helping an existing company with local expansion and development of a workforce is what the public-private partnership is all about,” said Anthony Preite, Director of the Montana Department of Commerce. “This expansion will provide more opportunities for growth in Lake County.”

Lake County Community Development Corporation will assist with the administration of the project.

Montana's Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development (CDBG-ED) program is designed to stimulate economic development activity by assisting Montana's private sector in job creation or retention for low and moderate income persons.

The CDBG-ED program receives funding from the Community Development Block Grant program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Economic Development Administration.

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